

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-04 IGA-01 RSC-01 /022 W

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R 290939Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8799

UNCLAS CAIRO 8507

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:

SUBJECT: IPPF-1975 PROGRAM

REF: STATE 228122

A. BACKGROUND (REPLIES ARE KEYED TO NUMBERS IN REFTEL):
EMBASSY HAS NOT TO DATE RECEIVED COPY OF DONOR'S REPORT OF
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF). WILL COMMENT
WHEN REPORT RECEIVED.

B. CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES AND PRICES:

1. RECENT SURVEY INDICATES IPPF'S AFFILIATES IN-COUNTRY'S
SUPPLIES ARE ADEQUATE FOR 3-MONTH PERIOD. SOURCES APPROACHED
UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING SUPPLIES ON ORDER.
2. RE PRICES CHARGED FOR CONTRACEPTIVES ISSUED BY IPPF AFFILI-
ATE: PILLS ARE ISSUED GRATIS; VISITS TO CLINICS ARE ALSO GRATIS.
3. EGYPTIAN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION HAS JUST RECEIVED
BLUE LADY SUPPLIES. THEY ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED IN ORIGINAL
PACKAGE BUT WITH ADDED SIMPLIFIED ARABIC-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONS
FOR EGYPTIAN USAGE. WARNING ON PACKAGE IS NO BARRIER, SINCE IT
IS IN ENGLISH ONLY, AN UNFAMILIAR LANGUAGE TO HIGH PERCENTAGE
OF USERS.
4. THERE ARE NO DOUBLE STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE OF PILLS. THEY
ARE ISSUED GRATIS IN ALL GOVERNORATES IN EGYPT.

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5. PILLS ARE DISTRIBUTED BY ALL STAFF MEMBERS OF FAMILY

PLANNING CENTERS, INCLUDING PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL. IUD INSERTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BY DOCTORS (M.D.'S) ONLY.

6. NO CHANGE IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PRESENTLY ENVISAGED. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT A PROJECT BEING CONDUCTED BY CAIRO FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION THROUGH AUSPICES OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO'S SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER IS DISTRIBUTING BLUE LADY PILLS TO A RESEARCH SAMPLE WITHIN UNIVERSITY. RESEARCH IS TO BE COMPLETED IN 1975. RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT MAY SERVE TO ASSIST IN DETERMINING FUTURE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

7. EMBASSY STAFF NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT KNOWLEDGEABLY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF IPPF AFFILIATES' ACTIVITIES. THERE HAS BEEN NO AID MISSION AT THE POST. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO 1973 REPORT ON FAMILY PLANNING IN EGYPT BY DR. LEILA EL-HAMAMSY, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFPA AND ITS BRANCH AFFILIATES IN THE GOVERNORATES HAVE UNTIL RECENTLY BEEN TENUOUS AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS HAVE LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED. THIS IS ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO FACT THAT EFPA HAS NOT BEEN AS ACTIVE AS IT MIGHT BE. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN INFREQUENT. EFPA HAS NOT IN FACT HAD MUCH DIRECT CONTACT WITH FAMILY PLANNING WORK AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL AND ITS EXACT ROLE VIS-A-VIS LOCAL BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS HAS BEEN AMBIGUOUSLY DEFINED. EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING MADE, HOWEVER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF AISHA RATEB, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WHO IS A WOMAN, TO ACTIVATE THE ASSOCIATION AND TO HAVE IT EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS WITH GREATER EFFECTIVENESS. THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS HERSELF HAS BEEN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MATTERS DEALING WITH FAMILY PLANNING. IN CONCLUDING HER REPORT, EL-HAMAMSY REMARKS THAT THE AFFILIATE HAS IMPROVED AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. OTHER SOURCES QUERIED HAVE PROVIDED EMBASSY PERSONNEL WITH THE SAME PROGNOSIS.

C. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION, NEW INITIATIVES, POLICY AND LEADERSHIP:

THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY OPERATES SERVICE PROGRAMS. NON-CLINICAL DISTRIBUTION IS NOT ENVISAGED AT THIS STATE. HOWEVER, REFERENCE IS MADE TO PROJECT ON FAMILY PLANNING BEING CONDUCTED BY AUC MENTIONED IN PARA (B) 6 ABOVE. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THIS RESEARCH MAY HAVE SOME EFFECT ON FUTURE PLANNING.

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1. SEE COMMENT (B) 7 ABOVE.

2. NOTEWORTHY INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY EFPA, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ITS CAIRO GOVERNORATE BRANCH ARE:

A. CURRENT ACTIVITIES TO EXPAND FROM FAMILY SERVICE ROLE TO PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION.

B. PRESSING GOVERNMENT TO EARMARK PORTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET FOR

FAMILY PLANNING COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES.

C. INSTITUTING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR LEADERSHIP GROUPS, SUCH AS ARAB SOCIALIST UNION WOMEN LEADERS.

D. TRAINING OF PERSONNEL OF FAMILY PLANNING CENTERS.

E. ISSUANCE OF INFORMATION PAMPHLETS.

F. EXPANSION OF MASS MEDIA PROGRAMS THROUGH RADIO AND TV.

G. FINALLY, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A GENERAL EFFORT TO FACILITATE IN-SERVICE IMPROVEMENT OF EFPA CENTERS TO SERVE AS MODEL CENTERS FOR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE ABILITY OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION AFFILIATES TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THE POPULATION FIELD, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPTIAN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION IS THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS ANESA CABINET MEMBER. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR FAMILY PLANNING, THE NATIONAL BODY DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON FAMILY PLANNING MATTERS.

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